## The Ring of the Matterhorn.

By JOHN J. a'BECKET.

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[CONTINUED.]

#### CHAPTER III.

UNCLE JOSIAH AS A DOUBTING THOMAS. Miss Rodney made her preparations r leaving London that evening, and se days later she was in the bosom of her family. She had been able to learn nothing about Guy Stadley in London.

"To think that I should run across this beast and not be able to find out ything about that fine young fellow! w can two men with the same natures be so antipodally sundered in sharacter?" she thought with wonder.

Miss Rodney had derived a great nefit from her outing. She had been freed from the trials of home life, which had always oppressed her more heavily han either her mother or her sister. It was a satisfaction to feel that she could seet her uncle with the thing she had set out to do an accomplished fact. the longed for the very palpable reward her heroic task which the old man hed promised her in the moment of stening which had come upon him. Miss Rodney had never failed to coneratulate herself on having made him put it in writing and of securing witto the important document.

Mrs. Rodney and Rose had not been Counters of Carrington had given them en excuse for being a little less in solety. Mrs. Rodney had not failed to sake use of this opportunity. It was something to be able to practice econwith a deceased counters as the alaged cause of it. She had wanted to go no mourning, but Uncle Josiah had sobpooled that with animosity. "Wby, you hadn't heard from Ma-

dida for five years, and now you want to spend money in advertising your reget for such a dear, devoted sister. Tell a she's dead, and that will do as well

So Mrs. Rodney had contented herif with wearing black rather more condon, she managed to convey the reasion that the family was in a arning condition over the death of my sister, the Countess of Carringbut she had fired off these shots Uncle Josiah was not around. the knew that she could not count on my support from her sharp tongued ther in this direction. Miss Roiney had taken an early op-

d in the attempt to climb the fatterhorn. The old gentleman had own no curiosity on the subject. In fact, be had seemed almost to avoid an occasion for private talk with her.

But one day Mrs. Rodney and Rose d gone out for the afternoon, and ence soon after came in where the d gentleman was reading. She seated reelf and began:

"Well, uncle, now that I have shown on that I could do what I said I could. suppose you will keep your part of the agreement. You lost your wager. you know," she said pleasantly.

"What wager? What agreement?" replied snubbily, looking up from his paper as if he did not wish to be

Uncle Josiah's apparent forgetfulness concerning the Matterborn wager fairly smazed his niece.

"Why. I suppose you know what this paper is." returned Florence. drawing the agreement from her pocket. "You did not think I could get to the top of the Matterhorn, and you agreed here that if I did within six months you would give me money or stock or something that would yield me an income of \$10,000 a year. I have climbed the Matterborn and in less than four months from the date of this agreement, written by you and witnessed by Mary and Roberts. Now. when are you going to do your part?"

"I haven't got the money about me now." replied Uncle Josiah sarcastic-"We'll talk about it some other time. It doesn't say there how soon it must be paid. does it?"

"No. Of course, you know, I am not insisting on your doing it at once. But it was a gracious impulse, I believe, that led you to promise me this. I only want to know what I am to expect."

"Ob. I thought you said it was put down what you had to expect?" said the old man, looking at her.

"Uncle, there is no use in bandying words about it. . If you have a spark of honor, you know that now you owe me this money. Your word is concerned. I have done what I said I would, and I want to know when you will do your part," replied his niece firmly.

"How do I know that you climbed the Matterborn?" said Uncle Josiah

incredulously. "I should think my word was proof enough," retorted Miss Rodney, with some spirit. "You never knew me to he in your life."

"I know mighty few girls who wouldn't tell a little white fib 'f they could get \$10,000 a year by it.

chuckled Uncle Josiah. "Well, I anticipated some such sub terfuge as that," replied the girl coolly. "I have the affidavit of each of the

guides that I made the ascent.' "I suppose any of these Swiss guides would make out a paper like that for

\$50, wouldn't they? "I don't know. These didn't."

"You see there's no actual proof that you climbed that mountain," said Mr. Gardner argumentatively. "You say you did, and you have the papers. But may be mistaken, and, as I say. think \$50 would buy that much handwriting from any of them. Was there anybody along but you and the guides ?"

"Not with me-no," replied Miss Rodney, trying to keep cool under the evident desire of her uncle to irritate her. "But I met a young man on the

testify to my being there.' "Well, bring him on, and then I'll knew. He would be a credible witness

"I can't bring him on. I don't know where he is. I only know his name."

"What was his name?" "Stadley-Guy Stadley." "Sounds like a name out of a novel," mid Uncle Josiah suspiciously, as if



'How do I know that you climbed the Matterhorn?' said Uncle Josiah. any young man with such a name could not be trusted to any great extent

'Don't you know where he lives?" "No: I thought it was London from some things he said," answered Miss Rodney. "But I do not know his address, and no one there could tell me anything about him."

"Oh! You tried to find him, did you! How long had you known him?"

"From the time I met him on the Matterborn until I parted with him on coming back to the Mont Cervin hotel at Zermatt." Miss Rodney replied

"He may have been struck with you. and perhaps he would be willing to testify to a little thing like this to accommodate a lady he liked."

"Oh! Why do you keep up this sort of thing, uncle?" cried Miss Rodney impatiently. "Why don't you be just and do what you promised?"

'Tien't unjust if I wait until I find out. Get this young man, and if he seems to be a credible witness I'll believe him," said Uncle Josiah, with an air of waiving a point in his niece's favor. "Then, again, look here! How do I know but that you'll go and take Carrington, after all? You've got six or seven months to consider that point. Now, it wouldn't be square for me to make such a handsome provision for you if you were to step into your Aunt Matilda's money. 'Twouldn't be right to your sister. She wasn't offered this bject of his promise in case she should chance. You were your aunt's favorite and came in for Carrington and all the good things." The old man chuckled at his own sense of humor.

Miss Rodney rose to her feet indignantly. She had lost her temper at last. "Don't mention the name of that miserable creature to me ever again," she cried with indignation. "I will swear to you, if you would like it, that I will never wed the-oh, I cannot even speak his odious name! I saw him in London, and he insulted me afterward by calling on me. Then he insulted me further by writing a letter, evidently meaning to disgust me more than ever with himself. He said he was willing to marry me if I wanted him. And you suggest the possibility of such a vile thing to me as that! Have you no decency? You may repudiate your own paper and become a thief, uncle," she said violently, "but how is it possible for you to fall so far as to mention the name of any woman relative of you.s in the same breath with that

Uncle Josiah was having a great deal of enjoyment over this fiery niece of his. His taste in enjoying such things was unquestionably bad, unworthy an uncle of his years and with a really charming niece, when she was treated with any kind of fitness. But he did enjoy seeing her in a hot, indignant

"So you didn't take to Carrington, not even when he said he was willing to marry you? He may have wanted to put himself on record as being willing. because if he were to refuse you would get the money. What did you do to him?" he asked quickly.

"Told him 'No' in a way that could leave no doubt in his mind," replied Miss Rodney. "Don't talk about it any more. The whole sickening business has made me hate the very name of Carrington. But you need not despise him so much. After all, he was within his right, and you are refusing to do what justice and your own honor demand. There is no use of talking about it any more." she concluded, rising to

"Well, give me time to make the arrangement," said Uncle Josiah, with a cajoling air. "You don't expect me to go right down to the bank and get it now! Besides, you ought to bring on Strandham, Scanlon-what was his name?-to prove your statement. You could advertise for him in the London Times. Say he will hear of something greatly to your advantage if he comes forward and says that he found you without a chaperon on the Matterhorn."

His niece disdained further remarks. She rose and left the room. The next day Uncle Josiah, who had not doubted her word in the least, made arrangements for transferring several blocks of gilt edged stock to her. In his odd way he said nothing of this. He rather hated to see his plucky niece, whom he secretly admired very much, become absolutely independent of him, even though she owed such freedom to himself.

Miss Rodney kept her peace and treated her uncle with an unvarying man. I wish you could see him. He reserve after this. It tried him more than she realized. But she felt how mean and unjust his conduct was, and could not or would not make any attempt to cajole him into doing his duty and redeeming his promise to her. One thing she noticed, and Mrs. Rodney also remarked it - Uncie Josiah did not complain and comment as much on expenditures where his niece Florence was He said he bad to be in New York for

cerned Mrs. Rodney or Rose. Florence felt that this showed some sense of what he owed her on the old man's if his character is good." returned her | part She concluded to say nothing until the year was up. Then the objection which her uncle had urged could not exist, for her aunt's money would go irretrievably to her dissolute stepson.

CHAPTER IV.

NEWS OF GUY STADLEY. The summer had come. Mrs. Rodney after the usual "time" with her brother had got money to take herself and Rose to Narragansett Pier. Florence remained with her uncle. He insisted on one of his two nieces being with him, and they divided this domestic enjoyment between them. The old man very much preferred having Florence with him, and, as if with the desire to retain her, showed the pleasantest side of himself. When he felt the need of some outlet for his soul, strained with such continued sweetness, he would comment in his caustic, sneering, jocular way on Mrs. Rodney or Rose.

One day, about a month before the year appointed by the Countess of Carrington in her eccentric will was up, Miss Rodney burst into an exclamation of surprise and her face lit up with pleasure. She had just been reading a letter from Rose.

"What is the matter?" inquired Uncle Josiah. "Has Rose got some fool to ask her to marry him?'

"No," said Miss Rodney. "Listen to

this." She read from the letter: "There has been such a lovely Englishman here for a week. No one seems to know much about him, but I have heard that he goes with the swellest people in Newport and brought a lot of letters with him. Mamma has felt a little shy about my receiving his attentions, because we know so little about his means or family. But he was presented to me at a casino dance, and he certainly is a perfectly lovely waltzer. He seemed to take quite an interest in me. He wanted to know if I had any sisters and then asked if you were younger or older than I. Then he asked me if I knew a Miss Florence. He said laughingly that his principal object in coming to America was to discover this Miss Florence. When I wanted to know why he had such a romantic interest in a girl of whom he knew so little apparently, he said that last year he met her on the top of the Matterhorn. He is so quiet and unenthusiastic you would never think of his climbing such an awful mountain. Well, he did, and on top of the Matterborn he met this Miss Florence. He said he was never more surprised in his life, for it was a jolly good pull for a mountain practiced man. Well, I gather that he was' -Miss Rodney skipped a few lines here and went on farther down. "When making her promise that she won they got back to the hotel in the little



'There!" said Miss Rodney. "Do you hear? There is Guy Stadley.' town where they started from, he bade her good night, expecting to see her the next morning. He didn't, and instead got a telegram saying that his brother was dangerously ill and could not recover. He had to tear off, but left a note for Miss Florence with one of the men at the hotel, giving his London address, and why he had to go so suddenly, and begging her to let him know when she came to London, as he would then have the ring for her"-

"Why, was he engaged to the girl already?" asked Uncle Josiah, interrupting his niece.

"Wait and you'll see," said Miss Rodney. Her cheeks were flushed, and she seemed pleasantly excited over her sister's letter. She went on reading from it again:

"This is another romantic thing in this story-when they were on top of the Matterhorn, this Florence girl asked him to chip off a piece of rock from the very tiptop and said she would like to have it set in a ring and keep it as a souvenir. He knocked off two pieces and begged her to let him have them both put into rings, and then she could have one and he the other. 'She was such a plucky girl, you know,' said he, 'that I would be proud to have such an association with her. She was so jolly, and no nonsense about her. Of course there couldn't be in a girl

who could climb the Matterborn. "But it seems the girl took no notice of his letter, which he thought a little odd, because she had appeared so nice and friendly and wanted the ring so much. But I suppose the air of the Matterhorn made her friendly. It is lonesome enough up there to make the unexpected sight of another climber a

grateful thing. "He seemed quite interested in you -that is, he wanted to know if you looked like me and what sort of a girl you were. Of course nothing very unusual, only it was different from an Englishman. But he is a charming told me that I looked like the girl on the Matterhorn, and when I thought lessly asked if she was pretty he said quite warmly, 'Oh, more than,' etc.' Here Miss Rodney hummed again until she struck comething else and went on distinctly

"I hope he will be here when you come down, but I'm afraid he won't. concerned. He seemed to take these some time and would have to leave here

very top of the Matterhorn. He could | more tranquilly than those which con- | soon. I forget to say his name is Guy Stadley.'

"There!" said Miss Rodney triumphantly to her uncle. "Do you hear? There is Guy Stadley!'

"He must have a habit of going up the Matterhorn," retorted Uncle Josiah skeptically. "You say he met you up there, and here is another girl he ran across on the same old peak. I wonder if he uses it as a place of rendezvous."

"Oh, I am Miss Florence!" replied Miss Rodney, laughing. "I started to tell him my name and got as far as 'I am Miss Florence' when the guide interrupted me. I meant to correct this later on and forgot it. Then he went away so suddenly there was no chance. I wondered why he left no word, and it never occurred to me till that moment that he had, but to Miss Florence. Now I can get his testimony. I will write to Rose at once to send his address, and then you can write to him. You see, there can be no collusion in this way. Will you do it, uncle?" The old man's eyes took on their cun-

ning twinkle. "It looks like a put up job." he said. "He has come over here and makes up to Rose and instantly begins to ask about a Miss Florence and tells the little fool this yarn about the Matterhorn so innocently, apropos of nothing. Can the rock in the Matterhorn be known as such? And, even if it could, he may

have been there. There is nothing impossible in that. I believe those fool Englishmen think they are enjoying themselves when they risk their lives climbing. "What a villain you seem to think I am," replied Miss Rodney, letting her

hands fall with a gesture of despair. "I shall have to leave you to your own sense of honor. But I hope I will see this young man. I want that ring. No matter what you do, it will be the glory of my life that I did climb that awful mountain. I have had nightmares over it since, I can assure you.'

"I think you want to see the young man for his own sake, or rather for your own sake," said Mr. Gardner, with a chuckle. "He is the kind of man you would fall in love with. That sort of mountain gymnastics is more than fox hunting, or tennis playing, or any other play work. So you would like to go to Narragansett Pier to meet him. would you?'

"I should like to get the ring, but I would rather go to Newport than to Narragansett Pier.

"Well, you can go if you wen't stay more than a fortnight," said Uncle Josiah benignantly. He felt his niece deserved some reward for her good nature and also for her temper. He had enjoyed the few ebullitions of temper which he had succeeded in evoking. So he packed Miss Rodney off to Newport. write to him twice a week.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Crusty Ruskin. Here is a true Ruskin story that has never been published: A certain person in this country sent a friend of his in England an American edition of Ruskin's works. They were seized by the customs, of course, and were in peril of confiscation, when the consignee learned that if he could procure a letter from Mr. Ruskin allowing the books to pass into England the customs would release them. Accordingly a letter of request was sent to Mr. Ruskin, who replied promptly and with characteristic verve as follows:

Sir-1 do not see that your friend's desire to give you a present at my expense is any apology for your intrusion upon me. Yours, etc.,

The books came back to America. but in spite of the very tempting offers the recipient of Mr. Ruskin's curt reply refuses to part with the autograph. - Bookman.

A Savage Publisher. The late J. Schabelitz, the famous Zurich publisher and author, was a shrewd business man, an excellent linguist, a skillful writer and probably the most savage publisher who ever lived. When he accepted the famous memoirs of Count von Arnim, he wrote on the postal card with the acceptance the proviso, "I reserve the right to cor-

rect your infernally bad grammar." To an aspiring poet who had submitted manuscript he answered by postal card: "I refuse to be disgraced by printing your doggerel. I don't return the copy because you didn't inclose enough postage. If you will send it, with the price of this card, I will send it to you, but I don't think the stuff is worth the expense on your

part." One of his postal cards to a novelist read about as follows: "For heaven's sake, come and take away the unnamable mass of paper you left here for

me to look at!" An ambitious historian was crushed by the following, written, like all of his correspondence, upon a postal card: To Asheville-Cincinnati-Louisville. "You are making the mistake of your life. You don't want to study history. You want to learn how to write."-Sat-

#### Line Railread Atlantic Company of South Carolina

urday Evening Post.

CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

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Trains 32 and 35 carry through Pullman Palace Buffet Sleeping Cars between New York and Macon via Augusta T M EMERSON. H M EMERSON. Traffic Manager Gen'l Pass. Ag'. J R KENLY, Gen'l Manager.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE

North-Eastern R. R. of S. C



CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

Dated Jan 14, 1900.	550	lo. 5●	770	io. 3•		10 3•	No.
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Le Charleston	6 33	4 49	7 00	4 00
Ar Lanes	8 16	6 15	8 32	5 39
Le Lanes	8 16	6 15		5 39
Le Kingstree	8 32			0 00
Ar Florence	9 25	7 25		7 05
	a m	p m	a m	p nu

Daily. †Daily except Sunday. No. 52 runs through to Columbia via Cen

ral R. R. of S. C. Trains Nos. 78 and 32 run via Wilson and Fayetteville-Short Line-and make close

connection for all points North. Trains on C. & D R. R. leave Florence daily except Sunday 9 50 a m, arrive Darlington 10 15 a m, Hartsville 9 15 a m, Cheraw 11 30 a m, Wadesboro 2 25 p m. Leave Florence daily except Sunday 7 55 p m, arrive Darlington 8 20 p m, Bennettsville 9 17 p m, Gibson 9 45 p m. Leave Florence Sunday only 9 30 a m. arrive Darlington

Leave Gibson daily except Sunday 600 m, Bennettsville 7 00 a m, arrive Darlington 8 00 a m, leave Darlington 8 50 a m, arrive Fiorence 9 15 a m. Lesve Wadesbore laily except Sunday 3 00 pm, Cheraw 4 45 p m, Hartsville 7 00 a m, Darlington 6 29 m, arrive Florence 7 00 pm. Leave Darington Sunday only 8 50 a m, arrive Flor nce 9 15 a m.

J. R KENLEY. JNO. F. DIVINE, Gen'l Manager. Gen'l Sup t T. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager. S. M EMERSON, Gen'l Pass. Agent

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.



Condensed Schedule in Effect May 6, 1900.

No.11 Daily	No. 3 Daily	EASTERN TIME.		No.13 Daily
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Lv. Augusta.  "Batesburg. "Columbia (Union Depot) Ar. Charlotte.	4 45p 5 55p 9 10p	9 30p 12 07s 2 15s 9 40s
Ar. Danville.	12 51a	
Ar. Richmond	6 00a	6 25r
Ar, Washington.  "Baltimore Pa. R. R.	7 35a	8 50p
" Philadelphia. " New York		

Atlanta, via Augusta, making connections at Atlanta for all points North and West. Solid Trains between Charleston and Ashe-Connections at Columbia with through traine for Washington and the East; also for Jackson

ville and all Florida Points. FRANK S. GANNON,
Third V-P. & Gen. Mgr.,
Washington, D. C.

J. M. CULP,
Traffic Manager,
Washington, D. C. GEORGE 3 ALLEN, Div. Fass. Agt.,

W. A. TURK,

Charleston, S. C. S. H. HARDWICK. Gen. Pass. Agt. Washington, D. C. Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt., Atlanta, Ga.

### Atlantic Coast Line.

WILMINGTON, COLUMBIA AND AU GUSTA RAILROAD.

Condensed Schedule. Dated May 27, 1900.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

	No. 55 No. 35
f 77711	p. m.
Leave Wilmington	*3 45
Leave Marion	6 29
Arrive Florence	7 45
	p. m. a. m
Leave Florence	67 45 43 06
Arrive Sumter	8 57 4 05
I 0	No. 52
Leave Summer	8 57 *9 40
Arrive Calumbia	10 20 11 00

No. 52 runs through from Charleston via Central R. R, leaving Charleston 7 a. m., Lanes 8 34 a m, Manning 9 09 a m

TRAINS GOING NORTH

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\*Daily. †Daily except Sunday. No. 53 runs thro gh to Charleston, S. C. is Central R. R., arriving Manning 50: p

m , Lanes 6.43 p m, Charleston 8 30 p m. Trains on Conway Branch leave Chadbourg 5 35 p m, arrive Conway 7.40 p m, returning leave Conway 8 15 a m, arrive Chacbourn 10 35 am, leave Chadbourn 11 50 a m. arrive Boardman 12.25 p m, returning leave Boardman 3.00 p m, arrive Chadbourn 3.35 p m, Dail except Sunday.

J. R. KENLY, Gen'l Manager. T. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager.

# South Carolina and Georgia Ex-

Schedule No. 4-In effect 12.01 a. m., Sunday, December 24, 1899. Between

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	20	1 27	Westville	11 60	4 3
	60	1 40	Kershaw	11 35	4 1
	20	2 10	Heath Springs	11 20	3 1
	35	2 15	Pleasant Hill	11 15	3 0
12	30	2 35	Lancaster	10 55	2 3
1	CO	2 10	Riverside	10 40	10
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2	30	3 10	Catawba Juuction	10 20	12 2
2	50	3 20	Leslie	10 10	11 0
3	10	3 40	Rock Hill	10 00	10 4
4	10	3 55	New Port	9 35	8 2
4	45	4 02	Tirzab	9 30	8 0
6	30	4 20	Yorkville	9.15	7 3
6	00	4 35	Sharon	9 00	6.5
6	25	4 50	Bickory Grove	8 45	6 2
6	35	5 00	Smyrna	8 35	6 0
7	00	5 20	Blacksburg	8 15	5 3
p	m	p m		a m	8 1

	-			1775.17		
Blacksburg, S. C., and Marion, N.						
WEST	r.		E	AST		
2d cl *11	lst cl *33	Esstern time.	lst cl •32	2d c		
a m	p m	STATIONS.	a m	P		
8 10	5 30	Blacksburg	7 48	6 4		
8 30	5 45	Earls	7 32	6 2		
8 40	5 50	Patterson Springs	7 25	61		
9 20	6 00	Shelby	7 15	60		
10 00	5 20	Lattimore	6 55	4 5		
10 10	6 28	Mooresboro	6 48	4 4		
10 25	6 38	Benrietta	6 38	4 2		
10 50	6 55	Forest City	6 20	3 5		
11 15	7 10	Rutherfordton	6 05	3 2		
11 35	7 22	Millwood	5 65	3 0		
11 45	7 35	Golden Valley	5 40	2 5		
12 05	7 40	Thermal City	5 37	2 4		

West.	Gaffney Division.		East	
p m	p m		a m	PE
12 50	8 15	Mariou	5 00	20
12 25	7 58	Glenwood	5 17	2 2
12 05	7 40	Thermal City	5 37	2 4
11 45	7 35	Golden Valley	5 40	2 5
11 35	7 22	Millwood	5 65	3 0
11 15	7 10	Rutherfordton	6 05	3 2
10 50	6 55	Forest City	6 20	3 5

EASTERN TIME. | 1st Class let Class. 15 | 13 STATIONS. 1 00 6 00 Blacksburg 7 50 3 00 1 20 6 20 Cherokee Falls 730 240

Gaffney

7 10 2 20

am pm

Daily except Sunday.

Train No 32 leaving Marion, N. C., at 5 m, making close connection at Blacksburg, S C, with the Southern's train No 36 for Charlotte, N C, and all points East and connecting with the Southern's vestibule going to Atlanta, Ga, and all points West, and will receive passengers going East from train No 10, on the C & N W R R, at Yorkville, S C, at S 45 a m, and connects at Camden, S C, with the Southern's train No 78, arriving in Charleston, 8 17 p m, Train No 34 with passenger coach attached leaving Blacksburg at 5 30 a m, and connecting at Rock Hill with the Southern's Florida train

for all points South, Train No 33 leaving Camden, S C, at 12.50 p m, after the arrival of the Southern's Charleston train connects at Lancaster, S C, with the L& C RR, at Catawba Junction with the & A L, going East, at Rock Hill, S C, with the Southern's train, No 34, for Charlotte, N C, and all points East. Connects at Yorkville, S C, with train No 9 en the C & N W R R, for Chester, S C. At Blacksburg with the Southern's vestibule going East, and the Southern's train No 35 going West, and connecting at Marion N C with the Southern both East and

SAMUEL HUNT, President. A. TRIPP, Superintendent. S. B. LUMPKIN, Gen'l Passenger Agent.

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Andrena Moses.

Oct 25-o.